

# Eliminating Syphilis Fulton County (Atlanta), Georgia

## *Why is Syphilis Elimination in the U.S. within our reach now?*

- Syphilis is a preventable and curable sexually transmitted disease (STD).
- Infectious syphilis is at the lowest rate ever reported: 2.6 cases/100,000 population (6,993 total cases).
- Syphilis is now very concentrated; half of all new cases in 1998 were reported from only 28 counties, which represent less than 1% of all U.S. counties.
- Other industrialized countries have already eliminated syphilis.

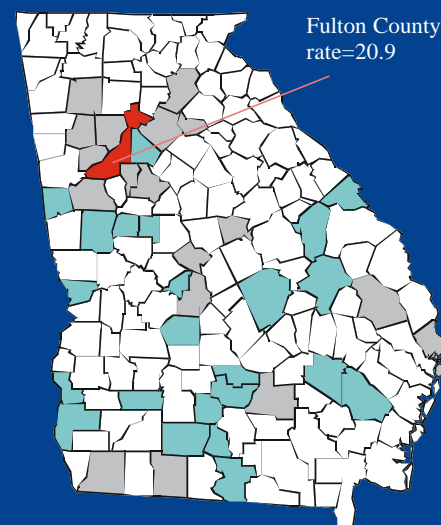
## *Why is it Important to Eliminate Syphilis in Fulton County?*

- **In 1998 Fulton County ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation** in new cases of infectious syphilis (151 cases) and had a rate 8 times higher than the national rate.
- **To reduce one of the most glaring racial disparities in health**
  - S 89% of cases are among African Americans (79% of cases nationally).
  - S The infectious syphilis rate in Fulton County for African Americans is 8 times greater than the rate for white Americans.
- **To decrease spread of HIV infection**
  - S Syphilis increases HIV transmission at least 2-to-5 fold.
- **To improve infant health**
  - S Syphilis can be transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy causing stillbirths or congenital infection, some of which may result in persistent health problems.
  - S In 1998, 6 cases of congenital syphilis were reported from Fulton County for a rate of 50.2/100,000 births, greater than 2 times the national rate of 20.6 cases/100,000 births.

## *Fulton County Responds*

- The Fulton County Jail will offer syphilis screening for all female inmates during the intake process.
- A Rapid Ethnographic Community Assessment Process (RECAP) will be conducted to identify specific needs of clients at high risk for contracting syphilis. Information will be used to improve access to care and close identified gaps in communication and service delivery.

### *Infectious Syphilis — Georgia, 1998*



- 0 cases reported
- Rate ≤ 4/100,000\*
- Rate > 4/100,000\*
- One of 28 counties reporting half of new cases in the U.S.

\* Healthy People 2000 objective is 4/100,000

1998 U.S. rate: 2.6 cases/100,000 population

**For more information contact:**  
David Johnson  
Acting Director, STD/HIV Program  
(404)657-3100  
(404)657-3133 (fax)

**For media inquiries contact:**  
National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office of Communications  
(404) 639-8895

<http://www.cdc.gov/StopSyphilis/>



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
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National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention

